

Collector's measurement in flesh:—Length, 183 mm.; wing, 93; culmen, 15; tarsus, 22. (Plesiotype, "H. L. White Coll.," Nat. Mus., Melbourne.)

Adult Female.—Forehead and lores dusky neutral grey; crown deep neutral grey; sides of crown chestnut-brown mottled black; ear-coverts mouse grey; hind-neck auburn; sides of neck neutral grey; mantle and scapulars auburn, some feathers with black bars and edged with pale olive-grey; back, rump upper tail-coverts and tail auburn; lesser wing-coverts light mouse grey mottled black and brown; median and greater wing-coverts hazel, some feathers like mantle with several black bars and edged with pale olive-grey; primary-coverts, secondaries and primaries chaetura drab feathers tipped more or less with dull white, and primaries edged on outer web with pale smoke grey; chin and throat whitish or pale smoke grey; fore-neck and breast citrine-drab or greyish olive; abdomen pallid neutral grey; under tail-coverts warm buff; tibia neutral grey. "Bill pale dull olive, irides and legs yellow" (W. McLennan). Collector's measurements in flesh:—Length, 221 mm.; wing, 103; culmen, 17; tarsus, 30. (Plesiotype, "H. L. White Coll.," Nat. Mus., Melbourne.)

Description of Nest and Eggs of *Turnix olivii* (Robinson)

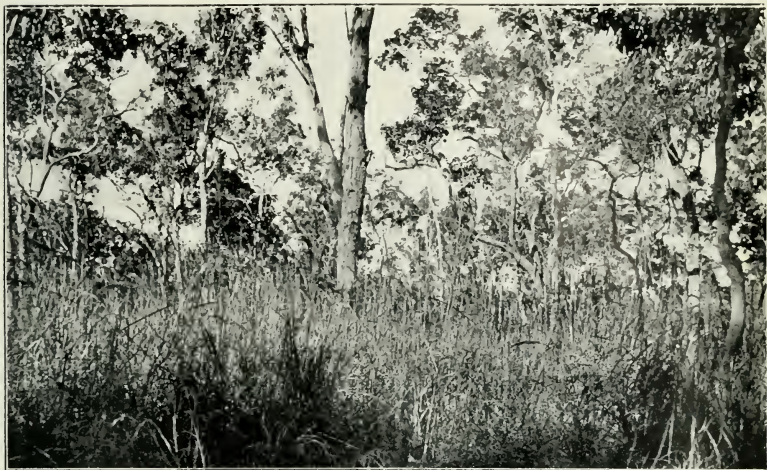
By H. L. WHITE, C.F.A.O.U., M.B.O.U., "Belltrees," Scone, N.S.W.

With the exception of the searches made by Sid. W. Jackson for the eggs of *Atrichornis rufescens* (Rufous Scrub-Bird) and F. L. Whitlock for those of *Eremiornis carteri* (Desert-Bird), I know of nothing so remarkable as the work put in by W. McLennan in his long hunt after the elusive *Turnix olivii* (Buff-breasted Quail).

His labour and perseverance were rewarded by three clutches of eggs of this previously practically unknown bird; one of the sets goes to Messrs. Bettington's "Terragong" Collection, while the others remain in my own.

The locality worked over is near Coen, at the base of the Cape York Peninsula, and about 180 miles north-west from Cooktown; a district not easy of access, but rich in bird life. In his very full daily notes, McLennan first mentions the bird on October 31st, 1921. He kept in touch with it up to April 5th, 1922.

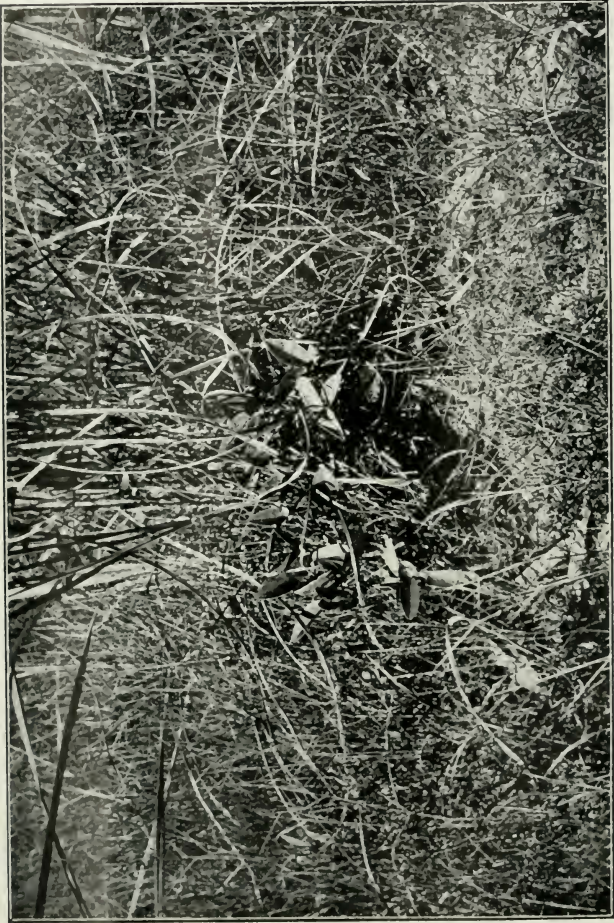
Types.—Clutch, four eggs, roundish in shape, much compressed and pointed at one end, forming quite a dumpy pyriform shape, more so than any others of the Quail family that have come under my notice. Ground colour whitish, minutely speckled, spotted, and blotched all over with markings of reddish-brown, bluish-grey, and black, the last two colours being the most pre-



Upper—Class of country frequented by the Buff-breasted Quail.

[Lower—A nest with eggs *in situ* Coen, Cape York Peninsula, Queensland.

Photos. by W. McLennan, R.A.O.U.



A.—Nest of Buff-breasted Quail (*Turnix olivii*), undisturbed.

Photo. by W. McLennan, R.A.O.U.



B.—Nest of Buff-breasted Quail (*Turnix olivii*) ; vegetation opened up to show eggs in nest.

Photo by W. McLennan, R.A.O.U.

dominant. (Incubation heavy). Shell fine, and surface rather glossy. Measurement in inches:—A, $1.13 \times .93$; B, $1.13 \times .92$; C, $1.13 \times .89$; D, $1.17 \times .93$.

Taken by W. McLennan at Coen, Cape York Peninsula, North Queensland, on March 22nd, 1922.

Nest.—Ovate, with entrance at side, placed in a shallow depression in the ground in short fine grass between a stool of a few stalks of long grass, and a small shrub; composed of soft, dry, narrow blades of long grass and stalks of fine grass. Outside measurements: Width $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, depth 5 inches, length 6 inches, entrance $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide by 3 inches deep; inside width 4 inches, depth 4 inches; length $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; depression in which placed 1 inch deep. (For nests see Plates 2 and 4).

Co-Types.—Clutch, four eggs, more heavily blotched than the Type clutch (especially Spm. D), and not quite such pointed specimens. (Incubation fresh.) Measurement in inches:—A, $1.12 \times .93$; B, $1.17 \times .93$; C, $1.12 \times .93$; D, $1.08 \times .93$.

Taken by W. McLennan at Coen, Cape York Peninsula, North Queensland, on March 24th, 1922.

Nest was situated in a very thinly grassed patch—thin stools of long grass widely scattered, with short fine grass growing between, placed at the base of a stool of long grass amongst short, fine grass. Nest spherical, composed of narrow blades of long, dry grass and short, dry grass, and a couple of dead leaves of ironbark tree with the grass in the egg chamber.

Measurements.—Outside: Width 5 inches, depth $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches, length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; a few ragged ends of grass project 5 inches beyond the entrance. Entrance: Width $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, depth 3 inches. Inside: Width and depth $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, length $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; depression in ground $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in depth.

An Abnormal Clutch of Blue-faced Honey Eater's Eggs (*Entomyza cyanotis harterti*)

Clutch of seven eggs taken by W. McLennan at Coen, Cape York Peninsula, North Queensland, on 3rd April, 1922. In his notes W. McLennan says:—

"Flushed a Honey-Eater (*E. cyanotis*) from a Babbler's nest, 10 feet from ground in a Swamp Paperbark tree (*Melaleuca*); it contained a remarkable set of seven eggs. The Babbler's nest was quite a fresh one; the Honey-eaters evidently took possession before it was fully lined, as the strips of paper-bark used by the Honey-eaters were mixed with the strips of messmate bark used by the Babbler, so that I could not tell where one ended and the other began." Eggs all slightly incubated.

The seven eggs forming this clutch are so much alike that apparently they were laid by the same bird.—HENRY L. WHITE, "Belltrees," N.S.W. 11/6/1922.